

Executive Registry

18 MAR 1982

JSC

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:
Director, Office of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Preparation for Possible 20/20
Interview with Hugh Downs

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1. As you are aware, you are to meet with Hugh Downs this Friday, 19 March, to discuss a possible appearance on 20/20. Should you decide to do the interview, attached are suggested talking points on topics which could be covered during the interview. These points focus on your background, accomplishments in the Intelligence Community, and some of the major substantive issues. Hopefully, the structure of such an interview would allow you the opportunity to "drive home" some of these points in a positive manner. You may also wish to address the SSCI's investigation of you last year and your business activities. Since this would be your first major nation-wide television interview, if you decide to do it, it would give you the chance to set the record straight once and for all. After your initial meeting with Mr. Downs on 19 March, we will have a better idea of the direction the interview could take and--again if it is to take place--we can, if necessary, develop these talking points further.

2. Also attached are the Q's and A's previously prepared for your U.S. News and World Report interview on some of the more current, controversial topics. If you agree to do the interview, you should also expect several questions on the Central American issues.

3. During your discussions with Mr. Downs this Friday, I recommend that you reach agreement with him that if you agree to do the interview, that it not be "live" and that you be able to review the videotape before it is aired.

SIGNED

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Attachments

OEXA/PAD/CEW/scn/16 Mar 82/x7676
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20/20 TALKING POINTS

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/EARLY DAYS AT CIA

The interview may touch upon some of the following areas. This will give you the chance to stress the strong qualifications you have to be DCI and your favorable impressions of the people and activities of CIA.

- Throughout career as lawyer, author, editor, have always maintained strong interest in intelligence.
 - There at beginning of modern intelligence.
 - Aide to OSS founder Donovan.
 - Chief of Secret Intelligence for OSS in Europe.
 - Served on Truman Committee which led to establishment of CIA.
 - Murphy Commission.
 - Member of PFIAB under President Ford
- Past career positions have kept you in touch with Federal Government.
 - Your years at SEC.
 - Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.
 - President and Chairman at EXIM Bank.
- Your close relationship with President Reagan will keep Administration focused on intelligence concerns.
 - Campaign Manager.
 - His electoral mandate can be interpreted as a mandate for strengthening intelligence.
 - His confidence in you.
 - Importance and significance of your role as Cabinet Officer.

- Early Days at CIA.

- Came with high respect for Agency.
- High degree of professionalism in staff.
- Dedication to mission.
- Enormous creativity and ingenuity.
- Early judgment confirmed.

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